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JUNE 7.

Mr. THOMAS MEEHAN, Vice-President, in the chair.

Twenty-one persons present.

JUNE 14.

Dr. W. S. W. RUSCHENBERGER, in the chair.

Twenty-five persons present.

The following papers were presented for publication:—

“On the structure and Classification of Mesozoic Mammalia.”  
(Abstract). By Henry F. Osborn.

“Notes on the Specific Names of certain North American Fishes.”  
By Carl H. Eigenmann.

JUNE 21.

Mr. THOMAS MEEHAN, Vice-President, in the chair.

Twenty-nine persons present.

*Note on Chionanthus.*—Mr. THOMAS MEEHAN remarked that *Chionanthus*, L., until recently has been described as having perfect flowers. Of many authors to hand Dr. Gray only, notes, in the later edition of his Manual that it is occasionally polygamous.

It is rather one of those plants that are on the border-land of diœcism which, while having flowers apparently alike on all plants, have impotent anthers with a perfect pistil in one individual, and polliniferous anthers and an imperfect pistil in the other. The plant is therefore actually diœcious, while having flowers apparently perfect. This is certainly the rule.

There is, however, a great difference in the flowers when critically examined. All authors he had referred to describe the pistil as “emarginate or “bifid.”

This is only the case in what we must call the male plant. (Fig. 1.)



FIG. 1.

In the female it is capitate. (Fig. 2.) The anthers in the male are broadly ovate, barely pointed, thick, and of an uniform eburnean tint, with an abundance of yellow pollen. In the female they are linear ovate, greenish white with a mucronate, almost awned point, never polliniferous, and usually have more slender filaments.

No author seems to have noted the capitate stigma. Probably

the male plants are more abundant, and come more readily to hand. Of eleven he had out in a swamp to bear seed, before being aware of its bi-sexual character, only three are berry-bearing, and have the capitate stigma that characterizes the female flowers. On his lawn there is a large plant, isolated from others, with capitate stigmas, that has never borne a seed. He had an impression that he had seen single specimens in cultivation, in years gone by, with seed, so it is not improbable, under rare exceptions, a plant may have actually perfect flowers.



FIG. 2.

An interesting fact is that the usual description of "anthers, sometimes 3 or 4" is correct only as applicable to the male plant; this increase in the normal number is there frequent. He had not been able to find more than two in the female.

Although the white flowers are conspicuous, and the males have a delicate fragrance, he had not known them to be visited by bees or other insect, except the minute pollen eating thrips found in most flowers.

This may be from the abundance of other flowers on his grounds, at the time when these plants are in blossom. Industrious as bees are, they visit those flowers first that have nectar and pollen in profusion, in preference to gleaning in scant fields, taking to these only when abundant crops are scarce. The pollen is granulous, and fertilization is evidently effected through the wind. The flowers are therefore anemophilous.

JUNE 28.

Mr. CHARLES ROBERTS, in the chair.

Fourteen persons present.

A paper entitled "On the Structure and Classification of the Mesozoic Mammalia," by Henry F. Osborn, was presented for publication,

Mr. Theo. Wernwag, was elected a member.

The following was ordered to be printed:—